

connecting Baltimore and the State of Maryland, with the Ohio river, and it appeared on a careful examination, that the difficulties encountered by the Stage companies are so great that without such a sacrifice from this company, they could not meet the expenses of their portion of the route.

This provision of the contract with the Stage companies above named, including an engagement to maintain this discrimination, is all that I suppose it to be the intent of the order to call for in asking "what that agreement is."

The directors of this company have long and earnestly desired to avoid this seeming discrepancy of their charges, but have found themselves environed, by the same controlling circumstances, which in other similar cases have produced a like course of action in other Rail Road and Stage companies—and until they can be assured that the revenues of the company would not be injuriously affected by a general reduction of the regular rates, they feel compelled to rest in the hope, that the existing rates will be regarded as satisfactory while the company is engaged in the arduous struggle to reach the Ohio river, on the accomplishment of which it is probable that a material reduction of charges will be found to be practicable.

The agreement with the Stage companies is the result of previous experience which demonstrated, that the safety of the traveller called for an arrangement such as to confine the business to the most responsible hands, and to avoid the dangers of racing and other results of a too extended competition over a route abounding in steep declivities and precipices, and has been regarded by the directors as the most proper and effectual steps which they could take to give a preference to the route, in the minds of the travelling public.

To secure it their concurrence in a reduced rate of fare for through passengers was indispensable.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WM. PARKER.

Gen. Sup't. of the Balt. & Ohio R. R.

To the Speaker of the House of Delegates, Annapolis, Md.